

## Roderick A. Palmore

LCLD Founding Chair Emeritus; Senior Counsel, Dentons US LLP; and Former General Counsel, General Mills



**Rick Palmore** is a Senior Counsel at Dentons. With nearly 20 years of experience serving as a general counsel, including the role at General Mills from 2008 to 2015, and as a public company director, Palmore advises public and private corporations and their leadership suites on risk management and governance issues across practices and industry sectors. He focuses on issues such as regulation, internal investigations, board responsibilities and performance, due diligence,

litigation, brand protection, advertising, marketing, and labeling.

Palmore also is a nationally recognized advocate for diversity in the legal industry. He is the author of *A Call to Action: Diversity in the Legal Profession*, a legal industry manifesto urging general counsel to drive diversity by demanding results in the law firms with which they work as well as in their departments. The initiative later grew into the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD), a collaboration between general counsel and managing partners, which was formed in May 2009 and now includes more than 225 corporate chief legal officers and law firm managing partners. Palmore was the founding chair of LCLD and continues to serve on its executive committee.

From 1996 to 2008, Palmore was an executive and counsel at Sara Lee Corporation, where he was general counsel from 1999 to 2008; he ultimately held the titles of executive vice president, general counsel, and secretary for the consumer food giant from 2004 to 2008. Palmore was executive vice president, general counsel, and chief compliance and risk management officer of General Mills Inc. from 2008 to 2015.

Palmore received the Corporate Exemplar Award from the National Legal Aid & Defender Association in 2007, the Spirit of Excellence Award from the American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in 2006, the Scales of Justice Award from the Equal Justice Works Foundation in 2005, and the Excellence in Corporate Practice Award from the Association of Corporate Counsel in 2003. He also has been recognized by *The National Law Journal*, *Inside Counsel*, and *Corporate Board Member* as one of the most influential general counsel in America.

Palmore attended Yale University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics. He earned his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Chicago Law School.



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